

Message Text

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11

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 250810Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4568

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4527

EXDIS

DEPT PASS CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11#52: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, LA, US

SUBJ: PROCEDURES FOR POSSIBLE SUSPENSION OR BREAK IN
RELATIONS WITH LAO GOVERNMENT

REF: VIENTIANE 4450 (NOTAL)

1. THE GENERAL ATTITUDE OF THE PGNU TOWARD THIS EMBASSY AND ITS POSSIBLE REACTION TO THE TERMINATION OF AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO LAOS RAISES THE POSSIBILITY THAT EVENTS OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS OR WEEKS COULD OBLIGE THE USG TO SUSPEND OR BREAK RELATIONS WITH LAO PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION ON FAIRLY SHORT NOTICE. AS MENTIONED VIENTIANE 4450, OUR INTENTION HAS BEEN AND REMAINS TO MAKE NECESSITY FOR SUCH ACTION APPEAR TO BE RESPONSIBILITY OF LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT. IT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE UP TO DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THIS EMBASSY, TO DECIDE AT WHAT POINT PROVOCATIONS HAD BECOME SO SEVERE, OR NORMAL OPERATIONS HAD BEEN SO IMPEDED, THAT SUCH ACTION WERE REQUIRED.

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2. MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S

CLARIFYING TECHNICAL DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN WITHDRAWING EMBASSY, AND SUSPENDING OR BREAKING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND INDICATING WHICH IT BELIEVES WOULD BE CORRECT IN LIGHT OF PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND OF IMAGINABLE NEAR-TERM DEVELOPMENTS. WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME PROCEDURAL GUIDANCE BEYOND THAT CONTAINED IN 2 FAM 430.

3. WE ASSUME THAT A MAJOR CONSIDERATION IN EVENT OF BREAK OR SUSPENSION WOULD BE CHOICE OF PROTECTING POWER. IN TERMS OF FAVORABLE DISPOSITION AND SIZE OF STAFF IN LOCAL EMBASSIES, THERE ARE ONLY FIVE POSSIBLE CANDIDATES: AUSTRALIA, FRANCE, JAPAN, THAILAND, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM. THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IS SMALL. WHILE PRESENT AMBASSADOR IS NOT A VERY STRONG ADVOCATE OF HIS OWN INTERESTS, HE IS DUE TO LEAVE NEXT MONTH AND WE DO NOT KNOW HIS REPLACEMENT. THE THAI AMBASSADOR IS INEPT AND SEEMS CONCERNED MAINLY WITH ACCOMMODATING THE NEW ORDER HERE, BUT EVEN DESPITE HIS ACCOMMODATION THAILAND WILL PROBABLY HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS OF ITS OWN IN LAOS IN NEAR FUTURE. (THAI CONSULATE STAFF IN PAKSE HAS ALREADY PULLED OUT, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY.) THE UNITED KINGDOM IS OUR GOOD FRIEND BUT ITS EMBASSY IS QUITE SMALL.

4. THIS WOULD SEEM TO LEAVE FRANCE AND JAPAN AS MOST LOGICAL CHOICES. FRENCH INFLUENCE STILL COUNTS BUT IS ON THE WANE, AND FRENCH THEMSELVES ARE REPORTEDLY CUTTING BACK THEIR PERSONNEL BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY. FURTHERMORE, FRENCH AMBASSADOR CARDI IS GUALLIST OF OLD TYPE AND HAS NO GREAT SYMPATHY FOR U.S. JAPANESE MIGHT BE BEST CHOICE FOR THE TASK. THEY HAVE A RELATIVELY LARGE AND EFFICIENT EMBASSY HERE (ALTHOUGH A SOMEWHAT WEAK AMBASSADOR); THERE ARE NO STIGMAS ATTACHED TO THEM; AND JAPAN WILL CLEARLY REMAIN A SIGNIFICANT POWER IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE. WOULD ALSO WELCOME COMMENTS OF INFO ADDRESSEES.
CHAPMAN

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CINCPAC.

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